Reporting (UCR) Pilot Unified Customer

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The Problem

Applications need to use data that is warehoused in diverse data sources and repositories.

- data is expressed in different formats and languages
- data is retrieved in different access methods
- through different delivery vehicles.

Examples:

- Analyzing System Performance server performance, probes pertormance, network performance
- Personnel data warehouses employees addresses, employees salary, employees education
- Customer Relationship Management customer profiles, billing, trouble



Traditional Solutions

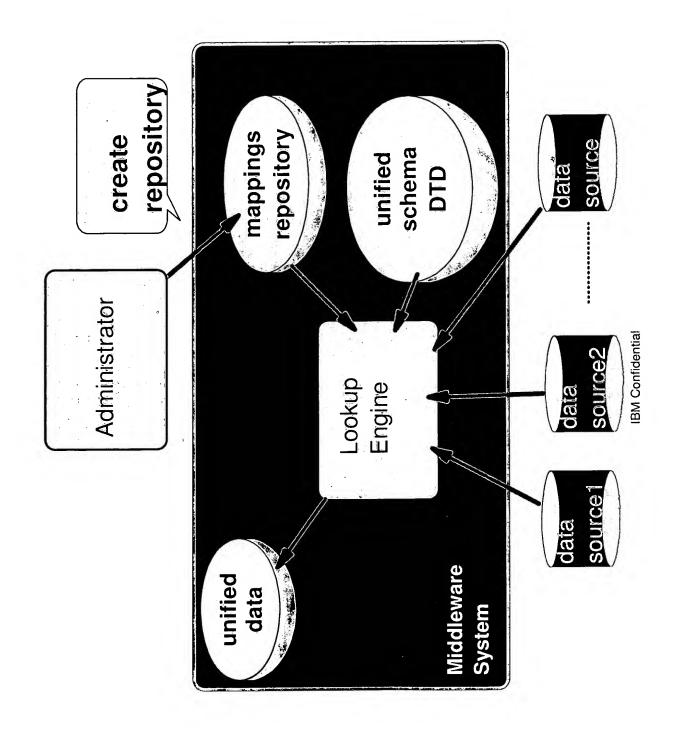
Integrate the data at the application level

- couples business logic with the data
- difficult to add new data sources or change existing ones
- each application developer need to learn each data source, how to access them and how to correlate them.

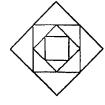
Create a data warehouse

- not flexible to dynamic changes in the data sources
- difficult to correlate the data sources and put them in a tabular format
- DataJoiner is an IBM product that employs this solution

Our Solution







Our Solution (cont)

- Define a Document Type Definition (DTD) for the domain if not yet exists. This is the unified schema.
- The Administrator maps from the data sources to the unified schema.
- A repository of mappings is created combined with conversion functions.
- The Lookup Engine uses the repository of mappings to extract the relevant data from the data sources and create the unified data. , ___
- The unified data is represented in XML.
- In 1999 we defined a Unified Schema DTD for performance, called performanceML, and it was published externally in xml.org.



Integrates and correlates SRM and EPP data sources

- Server Resource Management (SRM) measures resources of servers such as CPU utilization
- End-to-end Probe Performance (EPP) measures the response time of probes such as access to web pages

Visualizes the data using the LifeLines concept

- Research done by Plaisant & Shneiderman from University of Maryland and by Watson
- presents the data in layers and allows to discover patterns
- see information at a glance while preserving the ability to drill down to see detailed backup information

Demo URL:

http://9.148.18.137/UCR/UCRDemo/UCRdemo_index.html



The Performance Puzzle

The integration and correlation will allow to answer questions as:

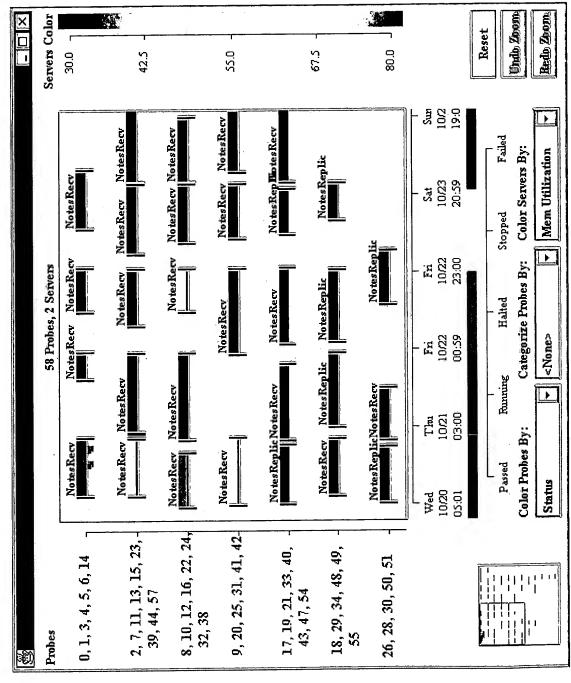
- What was the performance of the servers when the application (probe) failed?
- How changes to applications affect the servers?
- How applications perform at a specific load on a server?
- Which component in the server had a bottleneck when the server runs a specific application?
- Which component in the application had a bottleneck when it runs on some specific servers?



LifeLines

- Each entity i.e. probe or server has its own shape (screen representation)
- Correlation is done by overlaying the servers shape over the probes shape
- Use of categorical colormaps
- Color entities by different dimensions
- Fast way to see what happened and the temporal relationships among things
- Positioning on the Yaxis is accomplished principally through categorization and sorting
- A thumbnail overview and scrolling
- Allows to drill-down to detailed information

LifeLines (cont)





IBM Invention Disclosure

Title of patent application:

Method and System For Integrating Diverse Data Sources Using XML

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